GUIDE TO THE ED1 RUMANIA FILE

[This file is concerned with 20th century Rumanians and their culture. Modern Rumania is bordered by the USSR on the northeast, the Black Sea on the east, Bulgaria on the south, Yugoslavia on the southwest, and Hungary on the northwest. The borders have shifted considerably during the 20th century. The Carpathian mountains run north-south and the Transylvanian Alps run east-west through the country. To the north-west of the mountain ranges is the Transylvanian Plateau and to the southeast are the Moldavia and Walachia plains. The distribution of ethnic groups and differences in settlement pattern follow this highland versus lowland distinction with the indigenous Rumanians living in the mountains in dispersed pastoral settlements and the Saxons and Szeklers living in the lowlands in nucleated settlements. Rumania was a Roman province from A.D. 100-275. From the 6th to the 12th centuries many different barbarian conquerors passed through. In 1881 Rumania became a kingdom. A communist dominated government was elected in 1946. It became a people's democracy of the Soviet type under the 1952 constitution (see 1: Braham). A new constitution adopted in 1965 proclaimed Rumania a socialist republic but emphasized national autonomy.

The Rumanian language is basically of the Romance family with a large admixture of Slavic. The 1974 population estimate was 21,210,000. The capital is Bucharest and 80% of the population is of the Rumanian Orthodox religion. Before the 20th century, stock raising was the most important economic activity but in the 20th century crop raising has become more important. The main crops are cereals with wheat, rye, and maize being the most important.

Although industrialization was begun in the late 19th century, it was between the two World Wars that industrial development accelerated. Even in 1974, however, 65% of the population was still engaged in agriculture. The economy is usually described as poor or backward.

There are nine sources in the file, numbered 1-5, 10-12, and 16. The file was apparently designed to emphasize political and economic developments of the 20th century. Sources 1, 2, 3, 10, 12, and 16 deal with various aspects of politics and/or economy. 4: Fleure deals with the effects of climate and topography on occupations and settlement patterns. 5: Fleure describes life in the peasant town of Curtea De Arges. 11: Clark is a study of the ethnic composition of the population and border shifts of the past. The file was processed in 1955-56.]